

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /013 W

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R 200826Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

INFO AMEMBASSY PROT LOUIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 2126

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA OAU MP

SUBJECT: TDY ASSISTANCE FOR OAU CONFERENCE

REF: PORT LOUIS 0148

1. EMBASSY AGREES PRESENCE BRUCE ROGERS IN MAURITIUS ON TDY DURING OAU SUMMIT CONFERENCE LATE JUNE, EARLY JULY, COULD BE HELPFUL. HOWEVER, WE NOT NOW PREPARED TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO PORT LOUIS'S PROPOSAL. OUR ENTIRE POLITICAL SECTION WILL ROTATE THIS SUMMER INCLUDING ROGERS AND UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE TIMING OF THE CHANGES, WE WILL NOT KNOW WHO WILL BE ON BOARD OR WHEN. ADDITIONALLY WE WILL WANT TO HAVE A BETTER FEEL FOR THE LIKELY ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AT THAT TIME THAN WE DO NOW. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ONE POLITICAL OFFICER CAN BE AWAY FROM POST BUT TWO AWAY PLACES AN EXCEPTIONAL BURDEN ON THE REMAINING OFFICER. IF ETHIOPIAN POT LIKELY BE STILL BOILING AND TDY COINCIDED WITH DEPARTURE OF ANOTHER OF OUR POLITICAL OFFICERS, WE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS ABOUT LETTING ROGERS GO.

2. WE THEREFORE PREFER DELAY ANY COMMITMENT FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS WHEN WE WOULD BE GLAD LOOK AT SITUATION AGAIN. WE WOULD CAUTION NOW, HOWEVER, THAT IF ROGERS DOES GO, HE WOULD PROPOSE ARRIVE JUST BEFORE SUMMIT ITSELF AND REMAIN TWO-THREE DAYS AFTER MEETING TO CLEAN UP REPORTING. HE FEELS, AND WE AGREE, THAT NO PARTICULARLY USEFUL

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PURPOSE IS SERVED BY HAVING AN OFFICER ON HAND BEFORE AND

DURING FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING PRECEDING SUMMIT, SINCE
THERE VIRTUALLY NO LIKELIHOOD OF ANY DECISIONS BEING TAKEN
PRIOR TO SUMMIT ITSELF.
HUMMEL

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